

Message Text

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51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 024603

O P 281116Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDCSRMMEDIATE 4291

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

USDEL JEC YERIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

USSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

S E C R E T SAIGON 3707

EXDIS-MILLITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

NOFORN

WARNING--SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED/
NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION.

E.O. 11652: XGDS-DECLASSIFICATION DATE IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE.

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF NVA OFFENSIVE--SUMMARY FOR PERIOD ENDING
NOON MARCH 28.

1. GENERAL

THE SITUATION IN DA NANG REMAINS CRITICAL. THE OUTER DEFENSE
LINE OF THE CITY IS BEING MOVED CLOSER TO DA NANG TO A POINT WHERE
COMMUNIST HEAVY ARTILLERY WILL BE ABLE TO HIT CITY CENTER. THERE
ARE ALMOST NO LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS OPERATING IN THE CITY, AND THE
RAMPS AND RUNWAYS AT THE AIRPORT HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER BY MOBS.
IN MR2, HEAVY FIGHTING IN BINH DINH HAS COST THE GVN CONTROL OF
THE SEACOAST TOWN OF TAM QUAN. THE REMNANTS OF THE RANGER

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GROUPS WITH THE PLEIKU/KONTUM CONVOY HAVE BEEN EXTRACTED BY

HELICOPTER. IN MR3, THE DEFENDERS OF CHON THANH HELD THEIR POSITION, AND HAVE INFLICTED HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE NVA. THE NEW COMMANDER OF THE CAPITAL MILITARY DISTRICT, LTG. NGUYEN VAN MINH, IS CONDUCTING A THREE-DAY SWEEP THROUGH THE GIA DINH/LONG AN/HAU NGHIA TRI-BORADER AREA. ACTIVITY CONTINUED TO DECLINE IN MR4.

2. MR1.

THE SITUATION IN DA NANG AND ENVIRONS HAS CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE OVER THE PAST 24 HOURS. THE DEFENSE LINES OF THE CITY HAVE BEEN TIGHTENED DUE TO LARGE-SCALE DESERTIONS FROM THE 3D DIVISION. COMMUNIST HEAVY ARTILLERY WILL BE WITHIN RANGE OF DA NANG FROM THE NEW LINES. THERE ARE ALMOST NO LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS OPERATING IN THE CITY, AND THE MR1 STAFF EXPECTS THAT RIOTING, BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, IS LIKELY. MOBS HAVE TAKEN OVER THE RUNWAYS AND RAMPS AT THE DA NANG AIRPORT.

3. MR2.

HEAVY FIGHTING IN BINH DINH HAS COST THE GVN THE COASTAL TOWN OF TAM QUAN, AND THE DEFENDERS OF THIS DISTRICT CAPITAL HAVE WITHDRAWN TO BONG SON. THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE LEAVING QUI NHON FOR POINTS SOUTH IS INCREASING. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN KHANH DUONG DISTRICT IS LIGHT, AND COMMUNIST FORCES APPEAR TO HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM THAT AREA.

REMNANTS OF THE RANGER GROUPS DEFENDING THE PLEIKU/KONTUM CONVOY HAVE BEEN RECOVERED BY HELICOPTER. THE NUMBERS RECOVERED ARE TRAGICALLY SMALL HOWEVER. OF THE TOTAL TO&E STRENGTH OF THE EIGHT RANGER GROUPS (17,488), ONLY 1,512 HAVE BEEN RECOVERED.

AMONG THE REFUGEES IN NHA TRANG ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF DESERTERS, MANY OF WHOM ARE ARMED. THE CRIME PROBLEM IS DESCRIBED AS "SERIOUS BUT CONTROLLABLE," AND MPS ARE GETTING ON TOP OF THE PROBLEM. THE CRIME PROBLEM IS MORE SEVERE IN TUY HOA, AND BECAUSE MOST SHOPS THERE ARE CLOSED THE AUTHORITIES ARE HAVING TROUBLE BUYING FOOD FOR THE REFUGEES. GENERAL PHU HAS ORDERED THAT ANY SOLDIERS SEEN LOOTING ARE TO BE SHOT.

4. MR3.

THE DEFENDERS OF CHON THANH ARE CONTINUING TO HOLD, AND YESTERDAY (MARCH 27) INFLICTED HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE NVA. REPORTED LOSSES WERE 162 NVA KILLED, 2 CAPTURED, AND 5 TANKS

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AND 4 ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS DESTROYED BY VNAF.

THE NEW CAPITAL MILITARY DISTRICT COMMANDER, LTG. NGUYEN VAN MINH, IS CONDUCTING A THREE-DAY SWEEP OF THE "PINEAPPLE FOREST" IN THE TRI-BORDER AREA OF GIA DINH/LONG AN/HAU NGHIA.

BIEN HOA AIR BASE WAS ROCKETED MARCH 27, WITH NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES.

5. MR4.

THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS CONTINUED TO DECLINE IN THE DELTA IN
GENERALLY SCATTERED FIGHTING.

6. ICCS.

THE LAST TWO ICCS MEMBERS IN DA NANG DEPARTED THE REGIONAL
SITE THERE MARCH 27, AND THE ICCS BEGAN TO EVACUATE THE REGIONAL
SITE IN NHA TRANG TODAY. THE IRANIANS AND INDONESIANS HAVE
EVACUATED THE VUNG TAU SITE, WITH THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS
REMAINING BEHIND.

7. AFTER ABOVE WAS TYPED, WE RECEIVED CONFIRMATION THAT
BAO LOC CITY, CAPITAL OF LAM DONG PROVINCE, WAS ABANDONED BY
GVN FORCES.

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